

SENATE BILL 542

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 15, Part 3; Title 40, Chapter 2 and Title 40, Chapter 35, relative to bigamy.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-15-301(a), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) A person commits bigamy who:

(1) Is married and purports to marry or be married to a person other than the person's spouse in this state under circumstances that would, but for the person's existing marriage, constitute a marriage; or

(2) Knows that a person other than the person's spouse is married and purports to marry or be married to the person in this state under circumstances that would, but for the person's existing marriage, constitute a marriage.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-15-301, is amended by designating existing subsection (c) as subsection (d) and by deleting the language "Class A misdemeanor" and substituting instead "Class E felony".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-15-301, is amended by adding a new subsection thereto, as follows:

(c) For purposes of determining when prosecution for this offense must begin under § 40-2-101:

(1) A violation of this section is a continuing offense; and

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the applicability of § 40-2-103.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.